

CONTINUED ASSISTANCE FOR UNEMPLOYED WORKERS ACT STATUS UPDATE

The US Department of Labor has begun issuing the required guidance states need to implement the new federal programs under the *Continued Assistance for Unemployed Workers Act*. On Monday, January 4, 2021, the Department of Employment and Workforce (DEW) paid more than \$10 million in FPUC payments to the first round of claimants.

Important Dates Recap:

- As of late December 21, 2020, Congress passed legislation to extend the unemployment benefit programs created under the CARES Act.
- On December 27, 2020 President Trump signed the Continued Assistance Act of 2020 into law.
- As of late January 1, 2021, states began receiving initial guidance from the US DOL.
- Over the weekend of January 2 – 3, DEW received notice of available funding to begin paying out the \$300 FPUC payments.
- As of January 4, DEW began issuing \$300 FPUC payments to the first round of claimants.

Here's a high level overview of what the federal extensions will allow:

2021 FPUC Program:

An additional \$300 per week for all claimants receiving unemployment benefits from claim week ending January 2, 2021 through March 13, 2021.

- US DOL made FPUC money available to states over the weekend of January 2-3, 2021.
- The additional benefits were paid January 4, 2021 only to individuals on a continued claim who have not exhausted their eligible weeks. This is the first group of claimants who will receive these benefits.
- The first claim week claimants will be eligible for FPUC payments is January 2, 2021. Per the Continued Assistance for Unemployed Workers Act, the last week claimants will be eligible for FPUC payment is claim week ending March 13, 2021.

PUA Program Extension:

The number of weeks for an individual on the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) program has increased from a previous total of 39 weeks to 50 weeks.

PEUC Program Extension:

The number of weeks for an individual on the Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC) program has increased from a total of 13 weeks to 24 weeks.

DEW is continuing to work through the complex guidance as it is issued from US DOL and will implement the various programs in phases as quickly as possible. As we continue to get final guidance, we will begin paying the additional add groups who have already exhausted the PUA or PEUC programs, including the \$300 FPUC benefits.

In addition to these overall highlights, there are several pieces of the act that influence how a claim is processed and may affect an individual's specific claim, but the state must wait for additional guidance and clarification from US DOL and then apply that guidance to our system in accordance with South Carolina's UI code of law. Once those steps have been taken, we will work with claimants through the portal, the website, social media, etc. with any additional instructions or next steps needed.

Please see the back of this sheet to gain a better understanding of the process and timing of when these benefits will be available in South Carolina.

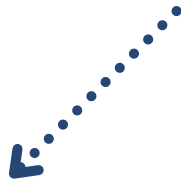
TIMING OF UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE FROM BILL TO BENEFITS

The Continued Assistance Act of 2020 has been approved, and we want to help everyone understand the process of how a legislative bill turns into a program through which states can begin paying benefits and what you can expect in the coming weeks.



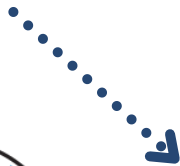
STEP 1

The Senate and House must both pass a bill for approval. Once passed by both houses of Congress, it goes to the President of the United States.



STEP 2

The president must sign the bill in order for it to become a federal law.



STEP 3

Congress provides the final approved document to the U.S. Department of Labor, and it must then be turned into actionable guidance for each state to accept and implement.



STEP 4

Each state must review and apply the guidance from DOL and coordinate with their state law.



STEP 5

Each state agency must program the new guidance into the UI system to accept the new federal guidelines.

The time from the passage of a bill to program implementation within a state can take up to 4 to 6 weeks. If the new program requires back pay of benefits to a set date, South Carolina will ensure this is processed accordingly for claimants deemed eligible.